

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph on Page 1, before Line 1, of the specification:

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 on earlier filed
Japanese Application No. 2003-31427, filed February 7, 2003.

Please rewrite the paragraph bridging Pages 13 and 14 of the specification, i.e., the paragraph from Page 13, Line 25, through Page 14, Line 7, as follows:

Furthermore, the apparatus is arranged to use the ~~limits or~~ thresholds (a) and (b) for inspection of stained parts and blurred parts, and use the limits (c) and (d) independent of the thresholds (a) and (b) for inspection of shortage or excess of printed density. In addition, the inspection of stained parts and blurred parts is dependent on the comparison of the two level images of inspection with the two level images of reference. The inspection of shortage or excess of printed density is dependent on the comparison of the multi level data of inspection with the multi level data of reference. The apparatus can therefore make a distinction between the inspection of stained parts or blurred parts and the inspection of shortage or excess of printed density without difficulty.

Please rewrite the paragraph on Page 18, Lines 1-17, as follows:

As to the comparison of multi level data, the apparatus extracts the multi level data of reference of No. 1/n part from the memory (S 30) and the multi level data of inspection of No. 1/n part from the memory (S 31) to compare them with each other at every pixel for recognition of difference between the multi level data

of reference and the multi level data of inspection so that the positions and areas of difference can be stored in the memory (S 32), as shown in Fig. 15. The same steps are accomplished repeatedly at every $1/n$ part toward the multi level data of reference and inspection of No. n/n part (S 33 to S 35). The apparatus then collects the results of inspection (S 36) to determine whether the positions and areas of difference are present or not (S 37) and make a change to the next inspection when being not present. The apparatus further determines whether the collecting areas of difference exceed the predetermined areas or not (~~S-37~~) (S38) and make a change to the next inspection when not exceeding. The apparatus further determine whether the difference is plus or minus (S 39) to generate an alarm of excess of printed density when being plus (S 40) and generate an alarm of shortage of printed density when being minus (S 41).